



## Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 253**

February Session, 2010

Substitute Senate Bill No. 348

*Senate, April 1, 2010*

The Committee on Energy and Technology reported through SEN. FONFARA, J. of the 1st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

### **AN ACT CONCERNING THE LOW-INCOME ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 16a-41b of the 2010 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

4 (a) There shall be a Low-Income Energy Advisory Board which shall  
5 consist of the following members: The [Secretary of the Office of Policy  
6 and Management or the secretary's designee; the Commissioner of  
7 Social Services or the commissioner's designee; the] executive director  
8 of the Commission on Aging; a representative of each electric and gas  
9 public service company designated by each such company; [the  
10 chairperson of the Department of Public Utility Control or a  
11 commissioner of the Department of Public Utility Control designated  
12 by the chairperson;] the Consumer Counsel or the counsel's designee;  
13 the executive director of Operation Fuel; the executive director of

14 Infoline; the director of the Connecticut Local Administrators of Social  
15 Services; the executive director of Legal Assistance Resource Center of  
16 Connecticut; the Connecticut president of AARP; a designee of the  
17 Norwich Public Utility; a designee of the Connecticut Petroleum  
18 Dealers Association; and a representative of the community action  
19 agencies administering energy assistance programs under contract  
20 with the Department of Social Services, designated by the Connecticut  
21 Association for Community Action. The Secretary of the Office of  
22 Policy and Management, the Commissioner of Social Services and the  
23 chairperson of the Public Utilities Control Authority, or their  
24 designees, shall serve as ex-officio members of the board.

25 (b) The Low-Income Energy Advisory Board shall advise and assist  
26 the Office of Policy and Management and the Department of Social  
27 Services in the planning, development, implementation and  
28 coordination of energy-assistance-related programs and policies and  
29 low-income weatherization assistance programs and policies, shall  
30 advise the Department of Public Utility Control regarding the impact  
31 of utility rates and policies, and shall make recommendations to the  
32 General Assembly regarding (1) legislation and plans subject to  
33 legislative approval, and (2) administration of the block grant program  
34 authorized under the Low-Income Energy Assistance Act, as described  
35 in section 16a-41a, to ensure affordable access to residential energy  
36 services to low-income state residents.

37 (c) [The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or the  
38 person designated by the secretary pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
39 section shall be the chairperson of the board.] On an annual basis, the  
40 board shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among its  
41 members.

42 (d) [The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall  
43 convene the first meeting of the board not later than August 1, 2005.  
44 The secretary shall provide notice of meetings to the members of Low-  
45 Income Energy Advisory Board, provide space for such meetings,  
46 maintain minutes and publish reports of the board.] The Low-Income

- 47 Energy Advisory Board shall be within the Office of Policy and  
48 Management for administrative purposes only.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2010	16a-41b
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**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In section 1(a), "Department of Public Utility Control" was changed to "Public Utilities Control Authority" for accuracy.

**ET**            *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

***Explanation***

The bill, which makes changes in the composition and administrative support for the Low Income Energy Advisory Board, results in no fiscal impact.

***The Out Years***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 348*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE LOW-INCOME ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill makes the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary, the Social Services commissioner, and the Department of Public Utility Control chairperson, or their respective designees, ex-officio rather than voting members of the Low-Income Energy Advisory Board. Under current law, the OPM secretary or his designee chairs the board; the bill instead requires the board annually to elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson from its members.

The bill places the board in OPM for administrative purposes only. It eliminates requirements that the OPM secretary notify board members of meetings, provide space for the board's meetings, maintain minutes, and publish the board's reports.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2010

**BACKGROUND*****Low-Income Energy Advisory Board***

By law, the board must advise and assist OPM and the Department of Social Services in planning, developing, implementing and coordinating programs and policies related to energy and low-income weatherization assistance. It must advise the Department of Public Utility Control regarding the impact of utility rates and policies. It must make recommendations to the legislature on (1) legislation and plans subject to legislative approval and (2) administration of the Low-Income Energy Assistance block grant to ensure affordable access to residential energy services to low-income state residents.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea     21     Nay   0     (03/16/2010)